

Appl. No.: 10/661,712
Amdt. Dated: April 19, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated: November 29, 2005

Remarks

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated November 29, 2005. This reply is being filed with a Request for Extension of Time and the required fee for same.

At the time of the Final Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-21 were pending in the application. Claims 18-21 have been allowed. Claims 4, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). In response, claims 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, and 17 have now been amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective base claim as originally filed. Claims 2, 3, and 8 have been amended to recite their dependence upon amended independent claim 4. Claim 12 has been amended to recite its dependence upon amended independent claim 11. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to recite their dependence upon amended independent claim 14. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 10 have now been canceled. Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0870 in the amount of \$800 for four (4) independent claims in excess of three, pursuant to Fee Code 1201.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-21 have been allowed. The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, and 17. Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations

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of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, and 17 have been re-written in independent form. Applicants believe that claims 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, and 17 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 8, 12, and 15-16 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence upon an allowable base claim.

II. Conclusion

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

4-19-06
Date


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